

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 L-03
FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
INT-05 USIE-00 /108 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ISM:SCHAAS;RMOGDEN:PJP
APPROVED BY EB/ICD:EAWENDT
TREASURY:BBENTON (SUBS)
COMMERCE:FSIESSIGER (SUBS)

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-----079966 012310Z /65

O 012224Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EMIN

DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB)

1. THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN HAS SENT SPLIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE APRIL 4 TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD REGARDING THE CONVENING OF A TUNGSTEN NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. FIVE CONSUMERS (US, UK, FRG, SWEDEN, AND JAPAN) REQUESTED THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO ESTABLISH A GROUP TO DRAFT A CHARTER FOR A PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORUM (PCF). MOST
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PRODUCERS (LED BY AUSTRALIA) AND SOME CONSUMERS RECOMMENDED THAT THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD REQUEST THE UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONVENE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT (ICA). CANADA RECOMMENDED THAT THE TDB REQUEST THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONVENE A GROUP TO PREPARE DRAFT ARTICLES FOR A PCF IN TREATY FORM WITH ECONOMIC PROVISIONS TO BE INCLUDED LATER

IF APPROPRIATE.

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2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MEET MORNING OF APRIL 3 WITH APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS TO GIVE THEM US POSITION FOR THE TDB MEETING DRAWING ON FOLLOWING POINTS. WE ARE MAKING SIMILAR REPRESENTATION WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

A. THE AUSTRALIAN-BOLIVIAN PROPOSAL FOR A TUNGSTEN ICA HAS BEEN EXAMINED EXTENSIVELY IN THE UNCTAD EXPERTS GROUP AND COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN. WE HAVE CONCLUDED DEFINITELY THAT THE PROPOSAL IS NEITHER DESIRABLE NOR FEASIBLE.

B. IN VIEW OF THE STRONG DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON THE ISSUE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IF PRODUCERS PRESS FOR A VOTE. IF A VOTE IS CALLED IN THE TDB FOR THE CONVENING OF A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO VOTE NO. WE WILL FURTHER INDICATE AT THE TDB THAT WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH CONFERENCE THAT MAY BE CALLED.

C. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE CONSUMER PROPOSAL FOR A PCF HAS MERIT. WE HOPE PRODUCERS WILL CONSIDER IT FAVORABLY AND SUPPORT A TDB RECOMMENDATION FOR ITS PROMPT ESTABLISHMENT.
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D. IF PRODUCERS ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT A PCF WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AS A COMPROMISE SENDING TUNGSTEN ISSUES BACK TO THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT FURTHER REVIEW OF THE CURRENT PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT IS WARRANTED.

E. WE COULD NOT ACCEPT A COMPROMISE BASED ON THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL BECAUSE OF ITS OPEN-ENDED NATURE AND THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF BINDING ECONOMIC PROVISIONS AT A LATER DATE.

3. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT AND US MISSION GENEVA BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM OF GOA REACTION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINERALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE084782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCHAAS;RMOGDEN:PJP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0903
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804102/aaaadirc.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 445835a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2822012
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040921
Subject: DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB)
TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, AS, US
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/445835a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014